

Message Text

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64

ACTION OPIC-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07 SP-03 CIEP-03

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08 FEA-02 L-03 H-03 NSC-07

SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 FPC-01 AGR-20 /169 W

----- 002283

R 261545Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6703

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1797

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EMIN, ENRG, TD

SUBJ: PLANNED ALUMINUM SMELTER

REF: STATE 161406

1. PLANS, POLICIES AND PROJECTS FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF TRINIDAD'S NATURAL GAS RESERVES HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WELL OVER 100 EMBASSY CABLES AND AIRGRAMS OVER THE PAST 30 MONTHS. NO DETERMINATION HAS EVER BEEN MADE AS TO WHAT COULD CONSTITUTE "HIGHEST AND BEST USE" OF THESE RESERVES, NOR ARE WE AWARE OF HAVING EMPLOYED THIS PHRASE IN OUR REPORTING. GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE GOTT WISHES TO EMPLOY ITS GAS RESERVES TO ESTABLISH ENERGY-RELATED INDUSTRIES WHILE WILL CREATE A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF NEW JOBS, A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF RELATED "SPIN-OFF" INDUSTRIES, AND WHICH WILL PRODUCE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE PROPORTION OF INTERMEDIATE OR FINISHED GOODS (AS OPPOSED TO THE EXPORT OF RAW MATERIALS OR SEMI-PROCESSED ITEMS).

2. THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT ONCE CONSIDERED FOR
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EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL GAS WAS A SCHEME TO LIQUIFY AND

EXPORT TO THE U.S. MIDWEST SOME 480 MILLION CUBIC FEET PER DAY. THE CONTRACT FOR THIS PROJECT BETWEEN AMOCO (FINDERS AND CONCESSION-HOLDERS FOR TRINIDAD'S OFF-SHORE NATURAL GAS RESERVES) AND THE CHICAGO-BASED PEOPLE'S NATURAL GAS PIPELINE COMPANY WAS TERMINATED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT IN JANUARY 1974. OTHER PROPOSALS FOR UTILIZATION OF THE NATURAL GAS INCLUDE AMMONIA FERTILIZER PLANTS, PETROCHEMICAL PLANTS, A STEEL PELLETIZING MILL, A CEMENT PLANT, AND ANOTHER ALUMINUM SMELTER.

3. SUGGEST DEPT. MAY WISH TO REFER TO PREVIOUS REPORTING ON THESE SUBJECTS AS FOLLOWS: LNG PROJECT: POS 1554, NOVEMBER 23, 1971; POS 184, FEBRUARY 9, 1972; POS 1419, NOVEMBER 20, 1972; POS 271, MARCH 9, 1973; POS 377, APRIL 6, 1973; POS 0071, JANUARY 9, 1974. NATURAL GAS-BASED AMMONIA PLANTS: POS 623, JUNE 1, 1973; POS 161, JANUARY 21, 1974; POS 747, APRIL 2, 1974; NATURAL GAS-BASED ALUMINUM SMELTER: POS 715, JUNE 19, 1973; POS 777, JULY 2, 1973; POS A-105, NOVEMBER 16, 1973; LIST OF PROJECTS FOR WHICH FINANCING IS SOUGHT: POS 1659, JULY 12, 1974.
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Message Attributes

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